

# OrdnanceReports

News updates from around the world



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*This publication is produced by the U.S. Army Ordnance Corps Communications Coordinator. The purpose of this publication is to provide Command Information materiel concerning world events and the U.S. military's role in those events. Ordnance specific events will be covered if appropriate. Direct your correspondence to Ed Starnes at 410-278-2415 (DSN 298-2415), or email [edward.starnes@ocs.apg.army.mil](mailto:edward.starnes@ocs.apg.army.mil).*

## EOD convention collates coalition

Story and photos by Pvt. 2 Terri Rorke, 11th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM, Afghanistan — An international Explosive Ordnance Disposal convention took place here Thursday, 5 June. This is the third convention EOD coordinated since April. They do this for many purposes.

"This is one of the few times EOD nations get together," said Staff Sgt. Shawn Prather, 705th EOD, Fort Polk, La.

Germans, Estonians, Italians, French, Polish, Spanish, British and American EOD personnel gathered for a full day of learning about the different militaries' capabilities.

"So far this is the largest group that we've had," said Maj. Charles Phillips, battalion operations officer for 184th Ordnance Battalion (EOD), Fort Gillem, Ga.

About 50 coalition members showed up to the convention, said Phillips. This number doesn't include the U.S. EOD companies at Bagram and representatives from Kandahar Air Field.

Some of the 705th's equipment was displayed, including new mine detectors, two robots — a remote ordnance neutralizer called the Remotec and a mission-ready Talon robot — a .50 caliber rifle, improvised bomb suits, radio transmitters and receivers, disrupters and more.

A couple of months earlier, representatives from the British International Security Assistance Force came here for intelligence about what the EOD here does, said Phillips.

"We decided to improve upon that — to not have just one representative from the ISAF come — but bring our (team) and theirs together in a larger group so we can pass information and share a little bit better. So not only are we sharing intelligence, but also tools, techniques and procedures," he said.



*Staff Sgt. Shawn Prather, 705th Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company, Fort Polk, La., teaches a Polish and French EOD soldier about some of his company's equipment which was on display during an EOD convention in Bagram, Afghanistan.*

According to Phillips, the convention is turning into a monthly event, and this is important for many reasons.

The biggest thing is that it's both Combined Joint Task Force-180 and ISAF EOD, said Phillips.

Both entities are facing the same type of ordnance devices. If the two can share what they encounter, what problems they had and how they went about fixing it, the information can help for the execution of future missions.

"We can use that (information) to pass on to our companies that are supporting the coalition forces so they can provide better support as well and be more knowledgeable about the things encountered," said Phillips.

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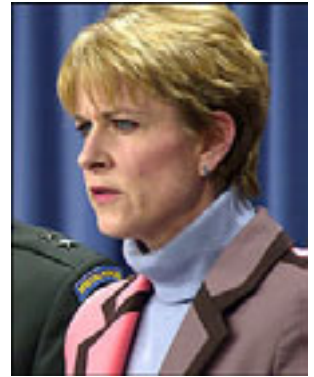
## Pentagon spokeswoman Victoria Clarke steps down

Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld announced today that chief Pentagon Spokeswoman Victoria Clarke would step down from her post as assistant secretary of defense for public affairs on June 20. Citing personal reasons for her departure, Clarke said, "I depart sadly, because this has been the best professional experience of my life. It has been a true honor working for the men and women of the U.S. military."

"Torie Clarke is a gifted communicator," said Secretary Rumsfeld. "During her remarkable two years of service in the Department of Defense, she has developed countless new methods to tell the story of our fighting forces, and bring their courage, dedication, and

professionalism into sharp focus for all Americans. She will be sorely missed."

Lawrence Di Rita, special assistant to the Secretary of Defense, will perform the duties of the Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs until a permanent replacement for Ms. Clarke is confirmed.



*Senior Hamas leader Ismail Abu Shanab (L) and Mohammed al-Hindi, a top Islamic Jihad official, talk to reporters after a meeting with Egyptian mediators in Gaza June 16, 2003. Egyptian envoys failed to achieve a breakthrough in talks with Palestinian militants aimed at arranging a cease-fire with Israel and salvaging a U.S.-backed peace 'road map' battered by violence. Reuters photo.*

## EOD convention collates coalition continued



*Italian International Security Assistance soldiers watch as a Talon Robot's capabilities are displayed during an EOD convention in Bagram, Afghanistan. The robot is easy to take on missions and go in caves because of its size, said Staff Sgt. Shawn Prather, 705th EOD Company, Fort Polk, La.*

When the companies return to the States, they will have a better idea of what to look for future projects, said Phillips.

"Maybe the other countries had a little better piece of equipment or enhanced capability of what we have. It gives us an idea of what equipment to look for. We continue to improve our equipment. They get the same benefit," added Phillips.

The next EOD convention takes place in July at the German compound in Kabul.

He said he hopes this convention will continue in the future as well.

"It's developed into a very good program for us as far as intelligence, technology, etc. ... Hopefully even after our battalion rotates out, it is something continued and built upon."



# U.S. troops hit in hunt for pro-Saddam fighters

by Andrew Marshall

BAGHDAD (Reuters) - U.S. troops scoured the hostile territory around Baghdad Monday for die-hard Saddam Hussein loyalists after guerrillas ambushed two U.S. convoys in the latest of a recent spate of attacks on American forces.

U.S. Central Command said it had launched a new mission, Operation Desert Scorpion, to hunt for pro-Saddam fighters who have mounted several deadly attacks in the restive towns and villages to the north and west of the Iraqi capital.

Troops would "identify and defeat selected Baath party loyalists, terrorist organizations and criminal elements while delivering humanitarian aid simultaneously," it said.

Iraqi residents in the restive towns say such operations would only serve to fuel anti-American anger.

There are also mounting calls in Iraq for occupying forces to leave. Sunday, hundreds of people marched through Basra to demand that the British forces running the southern city hand over power to an Iraqi local government.

Around 40 U.S. soldiers have been killed in hostile attacks and ambushes since the start of May, mostly in Baghdad and two nearby areas — to the west around Ramadi and Falluja, and to the north around Balad, Baquba and Tikrit, Saddam's home town.

The U.S. army said two of its convoys were ambushed on Sunday near Balad, around 90 km (60 miles) north of Baghdad.

In one ambush, a rocket-propelled grenade aimed at a U.S. vehicle missed its target and hit a civilian bus.

"Units from Task Force Ironhorse returned fire to protect the convoy and the civilian bus," it said. "The number of casualties on the civilian bus are not known at this time."

In the second ambush, soldiers returned fire after they were attacked with rocket-propelled grenades at Dujail, near Balad. "The attackers fled the area," an army statement said.

It made no mention of U.S. casualties.

Soldiers near Balad told Reuters Sunday that several casualties had been evacuated after an ambush that left a U.S. truck ablaze.

In Khaldiya, around 80 km (50 miles) west of Baghdad, U.S. troops staged a dawn raid on several houses. Soldiers said the raid came after an army patrol guarding an ammunition dump was attacked the previous evening with rocket-propelled grenades.



*U.S. military police lead away an Iraqi man after finding plastic explosives in his house during a dawn raid June 16, 2003 in the town of Khaldiya, 48 miles west of Baghdad. U.S. troops scoured the hostile territory around Baghdad for diehard Saddam Hussein loyalists blamed for recent attacks, after a new ambush on an American convoy wounded several soldiers. Reuters photo.*

U.S. army infantry soldiers and military police said they had arrested nine men and seized explosives and guns, after helicopters saw several ammunition boxes on rooftops.

Desert Scorpion follows last week's Operation Peninsula Strike — the biggest U.S. operation since the end of major combat in Iraq — in which troops in armored convoys, boats and helicopters raided suspected militia hideouts around Balad.

The U.S. army said 400 Iraqis were detained in last week's raids and 60 were still in custody.

The army said in a statement Friday that it had killed 27 Iraqis who attacked a tank patrol near Balad in an ambush last week. But a military spokesman later said he could not confirm the death toll. Locals said five civilians had been killed in the incident, along with two Iraqi guerrillas.

Angry locals around Balad say U.S. troops ransacked houses and assaulted residents during last week's searches.

A two-week amnesty for Iraqis to hand in heavy weapons without punishment ended Sunday, and now those caught with illegal firearms face a fine and up to a year in jail.

But few Iraqis heeded the amnesty. Many say they dare not give up their guns until security is restored after weeks of lawlessness following the overthrow of Saddam.



*French soldiers walk past huts destroyed in previous tribal fighting, Saturday, June 14, 2003 after they came under fire from unknown gunmen outside Bunia, Congo. French troops leading an international force came under fire for the first time Saturday as they carried out a reconnaissance patrol in the southern outskirts of this war-racked northeastern Congolese town.(AP Photo/Karel Prinsloo)*

## **Taliban warn of suicide attacks on foreign troops**

SPIN BOLDK, Afghanistan (Reuters) - Taliban fighters in Afghanistan have threatened to launch suicide attacks against U.S. and British troops and Afghan government officials in revenge for a big defeat this month.

The threat came in leaflets distributed in southeastern Afghanistan that also urged people to back the Taliban and not cooperate with the U.S.-backed government.

“A suicide force of Taliban Mujahideen has been formed to take the revenge for Taliban martyrs,” the Taliban said, according to a copy of the leaflet seen in the border town of Spin Boldak on Monday. Mujahideen are Muslim holy warriors.

“They will start non-stop suicide attacks on senior Afghan officials and American and British forces,” it added.

A former Afghan intelligence official, Mullah Abdul Samad, said he believed the leaflets were genuine and had been distributed by the Taliban.

The leaflets referred to a battle on June 4 northeast of Spin Boldak, in which up to 40 Taliban fighters were killed by government forces.

Provincial officials said it was the group’s biggest defeat since late 2001, when it was driven from power by a U.S.-led offensive launched after the September 11 attacks on the United States, blamed on the Taliban’s al Qaeda group allies.

Three days later, four German peacekeepers were killed in Kabul when a suicide car bomber blew up his vehicle next to a bus taking troops to the airport. About 30 of the Germans were wounded.

President Hamid Karzai blamed the Kabul attack on foreign terrorists and said the Taliban was finished as an organization.

Remnants of the Taliban and al Qaeda are believed to be hiding out in rugged mountains on the Afghan-Pakistan border. They have been blamed for a wave of violence across the south of the country and in Kabul in recent months.

## **Marines steam to Liberia**

New York Times -- WASHINGTON, June 14 — More than 2,000 marines aboard the amphibious assault ship Kearsarge are steaming toward the west coast of Africa to prepare for the possible evacuation of American citizens from strife-torn Liberia, military officials said today.

The ship is expected to arrive in the region by midweek.

More than 500 foreigners were evacuated this week from Monrovia, the Liberian capital, which has been surrounded by rebels who are seeking the removal of President Charles Taylor. American officials there, however, have not yet ordered an evacuation of United States citizens.



*A Liberian government fighter in Monrovia, Saturday, June 14, 2003, who said he was carrying his machinegun on his shoulder as a sign of observing the proposed ceasefire, but if rebels refused to stop fighting he would fight. Many Liberians who embrace the news that the parties were to sign a ceasefire were expressing disappointment about reports the rebels were refusing. (AP Photo/Pewee Flomoku)*



# Dragon Fury revisits Shahi Kot Mountains

by Spc. Karlene Hemerly-Fluck

SHAHI KOT, Afghanistan (Army News Service June 13, 2003) - Coalition forces returned to the Shahi Kot mountain range June 2 for the first time since Operation Anaconda.

Operation Dragon Fury could be considered part two of Operation Anaconda. Like its predecessor held in March 2002, the operation was conducted to root out al Qaeda and anti-coalition militias suspected of still operating in the valley near the Afghanistan-Pakistan border.

"Traffic definitely fluctuates in this area. Given the information received in the past month, this is the main channel, that we know, people are crossing the borders," said 1st Lt. Mike Swift, an intelligence officer in the 82nd Airborne Division.

Through different intelligence sources, information was received by coalition forces that there was a possible cell of anti-coalition militia and al-Qaeda with working plans to attack coalition forces that are serving in the War on Terror in different areas of Afghanistan, said Maj. Jack Marr, executive officer, 2nd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment.

The operation was conducted to deny anti-coalition militia sanctuary and prevent further attacks against non-governmental organizations, coalition forces and equipment in the Shahi Kot region, said Marr.

Dragon Fury consisted of a brigade-size element of U.S. troops centered around the 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment and the Italian army's Task Force Nibbio.

More than 20 U.S. aircraft — including UH-60 Black Hawk, CH-47 Chinooks and AH-64 Apache helicopters — performed ground and air assaults during the operation.

About 150 soldiers and 60 vehicles from TF Nibbio, which is based

out of Forward Operating Base Salerno, near Khowst, Afghanistan, established blocking positions to prevent escape from the valley region.

During the operation, Nibbio forces searched 300 vehicles, inspected 800 people and interviewed and released 13 persons.

Task Force Nibbio, proved to be an integral part of the operation, according to Lefforge.

"Objectives included establishing blocking positions to prevent ACM's from escaping the Shahi Kot area and defeating and capturing ACM's involved in terrorist operations," said Lt. Col. Douglas Lefforge, spokesperson for CJTF-180, in a press statement June 4.

"The troops went into this mission prepared," said 1st Lt. Emily Eagan, 293rd Military Police Company. "Things went really well for us, we got to do what we were trained to do and that was to detain and secure (Persons Under Control) in our established holding area and provide fields integration until the extraction."

By mission's end 21 people were taken into control by U.S. and Italian forces and are now being detained at an undisclosed holding area.

"The bottom line is, it could have been a very hostile area and we went in to execute a complex mission. It was executed very well and the mission was accomplished," said 2nd Lt. Jay W. Ross, chemical officer, 2nd Bn, 505th PIR.

The Shahi Kot region is near the town of Gardez, Afghanistan, and 85 miles south of Kabul, the capitol of Afghanistan.

*(Editor's note: Spc. Karlene Hemerly-Fluck is a journalist with the 109th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)*



*Armed Cambodian police patrol Phnom Penh Sunday June 15, 2003. Security in Phnom Penh has been increased as Cambodia hosts the 35th ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) Ministerial Meeting and the 10th ASEAN Regional Forum starting Sunday where terrorist threats, North Korea's nuclear program and the hardening of the Myanmar junta's anti-democracy stance will be discussed. (AP Photo/David Longstreath)*

# U.S. Army, Marines to share ground-vehicle development

by Frank Tiboni and Gail Kaufman, Defense News

The U.S. Army and Marine Corps will work more closely to develop their next-generation ground vehicles.

Army and Marine Corps officials by November will have a plan to form a Future Combat Systems (FCS) Joint Program Office. FCS is the Army's next generation of air and ground vehicles.

The move was ordered in the FCS Acquisition Decision Memorandum, which was issued May 16 by the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD).

"This plan should include recommendations on Joint Program Office structure, objectives and resources," said Edward "Pete" Aldridge, then-undersecretary of defense for acquisition, technology and logistics, in the three-page memo.

The new office will be responsible for coordinating a plan "to satisfy program requirements of the Army's FCS and the Marine Corps' Expeditionary Family of Fighting Vehicles," according to a June 11 statement from Marine Corps Systems Command, Quantico, Va.

The Marine Requirements Oversight Council will meet in June to discuss how to establish the new office, which the statement said was expected to provide the two ground combat services "the opportunity to share hardware development and fielding costs."

The statement said several decisions, including how much money the Marine Corps will contribute to the program and how many FCS systems it will buy, are expected to be determined once the new office is created.

The Army could not provide comment by press time.

The move will boost the Pentagon's efforts to get the services to work more closely, according to an industry official helping develop the new family of vehicles.

"It's no surprise that the Marines should be interested in FCS," the industry official said. "They should be interested in the program because they use many of the ground vehicles used by the Army."

A Marine Corps program official said the cooperation is likely to include unmanned aerial vehicles.

"It certainly is going to help our cause because the Army has much more money than we do and there are many, small tactical systems we might want to buy," the official said.

## Making FCS a Joint Effort

The OSD acquisition memo also instructs Army officials to take steps to involve other agencies in the FCS program by November, including:

\*Meet with the National Imagery and Mapping Agency, the Joint Staff and OSD to determine what kinds of video and data the Army

will want from the intelligence agency.

\*Coordinate bandwidth requirements with the U.S. military's Joint Tactical Radio System Joint Program Office.

\*Work with the Joint Staff and OSD to develop a system by 2010 that can identify air and ground vehicles as U.S. or coalition forces.

The Defense Department will keep a close watch on the newly joint program.

For example, John Stenbit, the department's chief information officer, will ensure that FCS networks work with other key U.S. military communication systems, the memo said.

## FCS Moves Ahead

Now that OSD has approved FCS, the program proceeds from the concept technology demonstration phase to system development and demonstration, allowing the Army to start building the 18 air and ground systems, and the all-important communications network that will connect them.

The memo, marked "For Official Use Only," also moves control of FCS to the Army. The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, the department's systems development shop, has managed the program since 2000.

Boeing Co., Chicago, and Science Applications International Corp. (SAIC), San Diego, will help the Army administer the FCS program, ensuring the vehicles and network work together. The two companies together serve as the lead systems integrator, a new title for prime contractor.

FCS will consist of light, rapid-deployable air and ground vehicles. It will include armed and unmanned aerial vehicles and land robots. All will be modular in design, and the program will be developed in increments so that systems can be easily updated when new technologies, such as ground-based lasers, are ready for combat. The first FCS systems will be fielded by 2010.

## Engines Heating Up

The Army and Boeing-SAIC reached a deal in January with General Dynamics, Falls Church, Va., and United Defense Inc. Arlington, Va., to develop and build the eight FCS manned ground vehicles. The next hotly contested FCS contract award is for their engines.

A hybrid-electric engine, which runs on fuel but stores unused energy in batteries, is believed to be the Army's preference, according to an industry official working on the FCS manned ground vehicles. But gas turbine and diesel engines also are under consideration, the official said.

The Army and Boeing-SAIC planned to issue a request for proposals

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# Army wheeled vehicle fleet tears through tires on harsh terrain

by Megan Scully, Inside The Army

The rough desert terrain in Iraq has wreaked havoc on the Army's ground systems, forcing the service to ship thousands of tires to the Persian Gulf each week, according to sources.

"We're consuming a hell of a lot of tires over there as a result of the road conditions," one senior Army official told Inside the Army. "We are busting up tires left and right."

Since mid-May, the service has received \$50 million to procure additional tires for ongoing operations in Iraq, including \$30 million the Army received on June 11, said Tony Warrior, supply team leader for the tire group at the Army's Tank-Automotive and Armaments Command.

The wear on the tires occurred as the Army moved divisions "all around Iraq" both during and after the conflict, Warrior noted. "You're talking cross-country trips through the desert. There are highways, but they're not in the greatest condition."

And, with more ground forces in Iraq than during the conflict, the need for tires has grown since combat operations ended in April.

In just one day last week, for instance, the service air-shipped 4,000 tires from the Michelin production facility in Germany to Kuwait, Warrior said. The tires were delivered in theater the next day.

During the first half of June, the service spent nearly \$5 million each week to ship tires to Iraq — up from the \$2 million a week the service spent on new tires during the Operation Iraqi Freedom conflict phase.

In particular, the service has been rushing new tires to Iraq for the Army's fleet of M1000 Heavy Equipment Transporters, which have been hauling up to 5 tons of equipment through Iraq. The vehicles, which can haul M1 Abrams tanks, were used extensively during operations.

The 3rd Corps Support Command, for instance, has put over 6.6 million miles on its fleet M1000 HETs, Warrior said. The exact number of trucks employed by the unit is classified, but he noted there are "great numbers" of the vehicles used in Iraq.

Before the war, the Army stocked up an eight-month supply of tires for the M1000 and other key vehicles needed in Iraq — a "significant

investment" for TACOM, which in turn temporarily halted the procurement of tires for non-tactical vehicles, Warrior added. But that supply eventually ran out.

"I don't think anybody could have foreseen what happened and how much activity they would get," Warrior said, adding that the Army's response to the increased tire need became somewhat reactionary. Army officials, however, are now working "closely" with contractors to forecast needs and expand the production base.

Tire manufacturers like Michelin have shifted their production in recent months to focus almost exclusively on the needs of the Army, telling commercial customers to "go elsewhere," Warrior noted. Prior to the conflict, the Army accounted for only 10 percent of Michelin's production base.

In some cases, the companies have also been providing the Army with tires at their own costs "so we could ship them out the next day," Warrior added. Until recently, money for new tires "hasn't exactly been free and easy"; even now, funding for is coming in to TACOM in "stops and starts," he noted.

For instance, the \$50 million received in the last month came in three installments — \$15 million in mid-May, another \$5 million on June 5, and the \$30 million last week.

Despite the growing need for new tires in Iraq, Warrior said the tires did perform up to expectations and were put to the "ultimate test" by the conditions there.

"This was about the worst environment we could put them through," he said. "There's not a whole lot of time for maintenance, no one's really checking air pressure for tires. This is not really an issue of could we go to company B and get a better tire."

However, Warrior noted, both the Army and industry are "trying to search and come up with better solutions" — namely, a tire with better endurance and a higher tolerance for harsh terrain.

## U.S. Army, Marines to share ground-vehicle development continued

for the FCS engine in February, but they delayed its release until late June, according to an industry official whose company is pursuing the contract. FCS 2003 funding may be delaying release of the request for proposals for the engine contract, said an industry official whose company is working on one of the program contracts.

Top contenders to build the FCS manned vehicles' engine are Honeywell Inc., Morris Township, N.J.; Detroit Diesel Corp., Detroit; and Caterpillar Inc., Peoria, Ill.



*A soldier checks a car near Duluiyah, Iraq, on Thursday. AP photo by Saurabh Das*



# Hearing opens in grenade attack on troops

by Kimerly Hefling

FORT KNOX, Ky. (AP) - A military hearing opened Monday for a soldier accused of a deadly grenade attack on his fellow Americans in Kuwait, with a major testifying that he was wounded by a gunshot after a grenade was rolled into his tent.

Sgt. Hasan K. Akbar, of the 101st Airborne Division's 326th Engineer Battalion, is charged with killing two officers and injuring 14 others in the March 23 attack.

The purpose of the Article 32 hearing, similar to a civilian grand jury proceeding, is to determine whether Akbar should be court-martialed. He could face the death penalty if convicted on two counts of premeditated murder and three counts of attempted murder.

The attack on officers from the Fort Campbell-based division's 1st Brigade happened days before the brigade was scheduled to move into Iraq for "Operation Iraqi Freedom." Those killed were Army Capt. Christopher Scott Seifert, 27, of Easton, Pa., and Air Force Maj. Gregory Stone, 40, of Boise, Idaho.

Akbar was present at the hearing, looking subdued, as Maj. Kenneth Romane testified.

Romane said he was working on his computer in the tent he shared with other officers around 1 a.m. when he heard footsteps and then a grenade was rolled into the tent.

He was not injured by the grenade. He said he loaded his pistol and stepped outside, and was shot. The single bullet hit both of his hands and his left thigh.

"I just know whoever it was shot before I could recognize who it was," Romane said.

Another soldier, Maj. Verner Kiernan, testified that Akbar was the last noncommissioned officer who had been guarding a cache of grenades and four of them were unaccounted for after the attack.

He said he had heard an explosion and a commotion, then saw a black man in desert camouflage at the entrance of his tent. Akbar is black. A second or two later, Kiernan testified, he heard something roll across the plywood floor of the tent.

"The whole tent was filled with smoke and it (the grenade) had caused a fire in the back of the tent," Kiernan said.

Kiernan said he helped Stone, who was wounded in the neck but still conscious, until he was put on an ambulance. Seifert, he testified, had a gunshot wound in the back.

Prosecutors expect to call 39 witnesses for the hearing, with 23 of them testifying over a video link from Mosul, Iraq.

Akbar, 32, has the right to testify on his own behalf at the hearing, but the Army has not said whether he was expected to do so.



*Maj. David Crawford of the Fort Campbell staff judge advocate's office answers questions outside of Pike Hall at Ft. Knox, Ky., prior to the beginning of an Article 32 hearing for Sgt. Hasan Akbar, Monday, June 16, 2003. Akbar is accused of two specifications of premeditated murder and three specifications of attempted murder in connection with the grenade attack on U.S. soldiers at Camp Pennsylvania, Kuwait on March 22, 2003. The Article 32 hearing, similar to a civilian grand jury, begins Monday. (AP Photo/Ed Reinke)*

The Army has not suggested a possible motive in the attack. But George Heath, a Fort Campbell spokesman, said soon after the attack that Akbar had "an attitude problem."



*U.S. troops raid a house at Khaldiya, 70 kms west of Baghdad, Iraq, Monday June 16, 2003. Hundreds of U.S. troops backed by tanks and helicopters raided several cities and villages on the second day of "Operation Desert Scorpion", arresting suspected militia leaders and seizing illegal weapons. (AP Photo/Saurabh Das)*



# War heroes help Pentagon celebrate Army's 228th birthday

by Staff Sgt. Marcia Triggs

WASHINGTON (Army News Service, June 13, 2003) - Soldiers who deployed to the Iraqi desert to fight and restore freedom helped celebrate the Army's 228th birthday today at the Pentagon.

Vice President Dick Cheney and Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld were among the special guests who took time to pay tribute to an Army at war and transforming. The celebration took place June 13, a day before the actual birthday.

Gen. Tommy Franks, the commander in chief of the U.S. Central Command, was given two standing ovations during the hour-long birthday tribute in the Pentagon's courtyard. Franks was celebrating his last Army birthday while in uniform.

"He would scold me if I credited him with winning the war," said Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz referring to Gen. Franks. "The global war on terrorism is being won by brave young men and women who risk their lives on the ground. But he [Franks] put the plan together for those who are fighting the fight, and he needs to be recognized."

Franks commanded the U.S. forces to battlefield victories in Afghanistan and Iraq, and has announced that he will retire this summer.

It's been 36 years of service for Franks, but it's only been four years for former prisoner-of-war Chief Warrant Officer Ronald Young. Young was captured during Operation Iraqi Freedom when his Apache Longbow helicopter was shot down.

During the birthday celebration, Young was one of six soldiers who were recognized for their service during the war. He's been called a hero, but says that he doesn't consider himself as one.

"I was shot down, that's not very heroic to me. It's the young guys I'm proud of that are making a difference," said the 26-year-old stationed at Fort Hood, Texas. "It's not just Army, it's a joint effort. I met one of the Marines that helped rescue us, and he was only 18, with less than a year in the Corps."

The joint effort that made the war a success was also echoed by Sgt. Allen Rushing, a Ranger from Fort Benning, Ga. Not just the Army works well together, but the military as a whole, Rushing said.

A statement that shows the Army is not just changing its equipment, but its mindset also. Army veterans from the first Gulf War have been quoted as saying that they never saw other members of the Armed Forces while deployed to Iraq.

"Soldiers from 228 years ago wouldn't even recognize this Army," Wolfowitz said. "This is the best Army that the world has ever known, but have no doubt that it's not the best Army that the world will ever know."

Rumsfeld credited the Army's transformation from the Cold War era to a 21st-century fighting force to Gen. Eric K. Shinseki, who retired

June 11 as the Army chief of staff.

"I want to salute a man ... whose energy and drive made a difference," Rumsfeld said in honor of Shinseki.

Shinseki wasn't there to hear the remarks, but about 300 soldiers and civilians listened as the vice president gave thanks to soldiers on behalf of President George W. Bush.

"On the Army's 228th birthday, I would like to thank every member of the U.S. Army for what you do for all of us," Cheney said. "Wherever you go, you bring justice, freedom and the hope for a better day."

Hope is the word Sgt. 1st Class Keith Gates used when he described what he provided to the Iraqi people as a civil affairs noncommissioned officer.

"My job was to act as a liaison and explain why the Army was there," the Fort Bragg soldier said. "Our goal was to help them feel at ease, find out their needs and then provide for them."

There have been 157 soldiers lost in Afghanistan and Iraq, said Sgt. Maj. of the Army Jack Tilley.

"Today is about remembering those sacrifices that so many soldiers have made," Tilley said. "It's not about numbers: it's about husbands, wives, fathers, sons and daughters. We have won on battlefields because of soldiers, their spirit, tenacity, heart and their blood."

For those soldiers who gave their life, the birthday celebration began with the laying of a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns.

"It was the soldiers before us who set the bar of selfless service so very high and made many personal sacrifices to defend this nation," said the acting Army Chief of Staff Gen. Jack Keane who was reflecting on the wreath-laying ceremony. "They established a tradition of service that now defines who we are as military professionals."

The Army is no doubt busier than it has ever been since World War II, Keane said. It has maintained its forces in the Sinai, Kosovo, Bosnia, the Philippines and Korea. It has fought two vastly different wars. One on Afghanistan's snowy mountains, and one in the open mobile desert of Iraq.

"We have demonstrated to the world, the Army's remarkable capability and flexibility," Keane added.

The birthday celebration also included remarks from the acting Secretary of the Army Les Brownlee, and the cutting a six-foot, red, white and blue cake. Among the honored guest were Capt. Andras Marton, a Judge Advocate General officer from the 101st Airborne Division, who was injured in Kuwait when a grenade was thrown into his tent; Sgt. Melvin Hargrove, a Reservist with an engineer battalion in Colorado, whose unit was part of the rebuilding project in Iraq; Cpl. Allan Poyle, a linguist from Fort Hood, Texas, whose leg had to be amputated from the knee down after a wall fell on him.

# To interview former P.O.W., CBS dangles stardom

by Jim Rutenberg, The New York Times

The race to land the most sought-after interview of the war in Iraq intensified as soon as Pfc. Jessica D. Lynch arrived at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center in April, after her rescue from an Iraqi hospital.

Katie Couric of NBC News sent Private Lynch, now 20, a bundle of patriotic books, including Rudolph W. Giuliani's memoir, "Leadership." Diane Sawyer, of ABC News, sent a locket with a photograph of Private Lynch's family home in Palestine, W. Va.

But CBS News, in addition to the usual personal touches, exhibited an apparent new gambit in its pursuit of an exclusive interview with the newsmaker of the moment, known in the television business as "the get." In its letters to Private Lynch's family and officials at the medical center, obtained by The New York Times, CBS News combined its pitch for a two-hour documentary with many other projects envisioned by the other divisions of its corporate parent, Viacom.

In the process, CBS renewed concerns among critics about the independence of news divisions owned by media giants.

"Attached you will find the outlines of a proposal that includes ideas from CBS News, CBS Entertainment, MTV networks and Simon & Schuster publishers," Betsy West, a CBS News senior vice president, wrote to Private Lynch's military representatives. "From the distinguished reporting of CBS News to the youthful reach of MTV, we believe this is a unique combination of projects that will do justice to Jessica's inspiring story."

CBS Entertainment executives, the proposal said, "tell us this would be the highest priority for the CBS movie division, which specializes in inspirational stories of courage." Simon & Schuster, it said, "is extremely interested in discussing the possibilities for a book based on Jessica's journey from Palestine, West Virginia, to deep inside Iraq."

MTV Networks, the letter went on, was offering a news special, a chance for Private Lynch and her friends to be the co-hosts of an hourlong music video program on MTV2, and even a special edition of its hit program "Total Request Live" in her honor. "This special would include a concert performance in Palestine, West Va., by a current star act such as Ashanti, and perhaps Ja Rule," the proposal said.

Private Lynch was not the only recipient of such a proposal. Recently, the CBS newsmagazine "60 Minutes" fashioned a proposal for Aron Ralston, who was hiking in Utah and was forced to cut off his arm to free himself from a boulder. The CBS proposal asked to film his rehabilitation and offered to help him contact other Viacom divisions.



CBS's dangling of movie, television and book deals in front of potential interview subjects has troubled some media critics who worry that in an age of media conglomerates, where news operations coexist with their entertainment counterparts, journalistic independence can suffer in the race for synergy.

CBS News said there was nothing untoward in the way that it approached Private Lynch or Mr. Ralston. The Lynch proposal, for example, made clear that CBS News is independent from its corporate siblings, executives said. And there was no promise of a book or movie deal in return for an interview, only the expression of interest in her story from other Viacom divisions, they added. "We

stand by this letter — there's no quid pro quo stated or implied," Ms. West said.

"We were led to believe that because of the media barrage of the Lynch family, it would be helpful to consolidate the various Viacom projects, including the CBS News proposal," Ms. West added. "We made it crystal clear that they were separate projects in no way linked."

But a Walter Reed medical center official who helped the Lynches sift through the media approaches did not find the distinctions as clear-cut as CBS news executives might have hoped.

"It looks confusing the way the letters are," said the official, Beverly Chidel, a hospital spokeswoman. "Someone may think, well, you're going to pay me for this, that and the other."

The CBS News proposal presents the latest development in the long, complicated history of "the get."

A good dose of charm has always been an important part of the media courtship and remains so. Typical of a friendly pitch, Jane Clayson, a CBS News correspondent, wrote a letter to Private Lynch in May reminding her that they shared the astrological sign of Taurus.

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# U.S. troops, S. Koreans mark somber anniversary

Story and photos by Jeremy Kirk, Stars and Stripes

SEOUL — Thousands bowed their heads across South Korea on Friday on the first anniversary of the death of two young girls killed by a U.S. military vehicle.

At Yongsan Garrison, about 200 soldiers and civilians attended a 30-minute service at south post chapel. Fliers handed out bore photos of Shim Mi-sun and Shin Hyo-soon, who died on Highway 56, a busy country road about 15 miles north of Seoul.



*Thousands gathered in downtown Seoul to commemorate the death of two 13-year-old girls one year ago Friday. The girls died after being struck by a U.S. armored vehicle.*

"Today, the Shim and Shin families do not walk alone," said U.S. Forces Korea commander Gen. Leon J. LaPorte. "It is impossible to say anything that will console them at this difficult hour during the anniversary of their daughters' deaths."

The deaths prompted massive anti-U.S. military protests around South Korea, calling for the withdrawal of U.S. forces and revision of the status of forces agreement.

The protests intensified after two sergeants involved in the accident — in which the girls, who were walking in the road, were struck by an M60 Armored Vehicle Launched Mine Clearing Line Charge

(AVLM) as it rounded an uphill curve — were acquitted in November in a U.S. military court. Koreans demanded they should have been tried in a South Korean court, but the status of forces agreement gave the case's jurisdiction to the U.S. military.

Apologies came from LaPorte, U.S. Ambassador Thomas Hubbard and eventually President Bush, but those did little to stem many Koreans' anger.

Just three miles away from Yongsan Garrison, thousands gathered in front of City Hall in downtown Seoul to remember Shim and Shin. Banners read "American soldier murderers get out" and "Prosecute the murdering Army."

While many attendees' banners aggressively bashed the U.S. military, many said they went to the rally simply to commemorate the victims. Kang Sae-hee, 20, said the biggest worry with U.S. troops in South Korea is if they are used in a first strike against North Korea.

The troops are fine as long as they are there to defend the South, Kang said. But South Koreans are uncomfortable with placement of Yongsan Garrison, said Hwang Eun-young, 20, a student at Koryo

University.

U.S. troops would be better someplace else, she said.

"We don't feel we need the Army in the middle of Seoul," she said.

Hong Myong-ko said he had an exam on Saturday, but that didn't stop him from attending the rally. Hong still thinks the United States owes South Korea more apologies over the accident, and said the U.S. military generally brings crime and accidents to the people it is supposed to protect.

"There is still no apology from the U.S. government," Hong said.

Ahn Moon-won came to Seoul from Anyang about 15 miles south with his children, Hee-jong and Sae-sol. He wanted them to see the rally and show it isn't only about the deceased girls; it's about preserving South Korea's independence.

He likened the candle his children held to a powerful gun that fights for rights of Koreans. Ahn said he's tired of rhetoric against North Korea and believes it's just propaganda to justify U.S. forces in South Korea.

The war against Iraq shows that "the Americans don't really want peace. I think America doesn't really mean anything for freedom," he said.

— *Daniel Lee contributed to this report.*



*Soldiers at Yongsan Garrison sing prayer songs during a memorial ceremony for two 13-year-old Korean girls killed by a U.S. armored vehicle one year ago Friday.*

## To interview former P.O.W., CBS dangles stardom continued

"I hope you have a great day," said Ms. Clayson, referring to Private Lynch's birthday.

For years such niceties from a big-name anchor or correspondent with the right demeanor were enough to lure the newsmaker in front of a camera. But as larger entertainment conglomerates came to own news operations and declined to treat journalism as a loss leader, some long-observed boundaries have been blurred.

Television news divisions occasionally pay for video and other material like home movies from the subjects of their reporting, technically permitting them to maintain their no-payment-for-interviews policies. And NBC News rebuked a staff member last year for buying clothing for a young kidnap victim in Los Angeles who had agreed to an interview with the "Today" show.

A new wrinkle in the interview booking wars arrived with media consolidation in the 1990's. When the Walt Disney Company bought ABC in 1996, the network was suddenly connected to movie studios and a book division. CBS, purchased by Viacom several years later, is now connected to Simon & Schuster, the Paramount movie studios and various cable networks like MTV.

Every few months, producers at one network will accuse those at another of luring interview subjects with book or movie deals, with no proof. For instance, some of ABC's competitors were suspicious when the crew of miners rescued from a Pennsylvania coal mine last summer sold the book and movie rights to their story to Disney, after "Good Morning America" scored the first live interview with one of the miners.

Robert Lazar, an agent with International Creative Management, who was involved in the miners' negotiations with Disney, said the "Good Morning America" appearance had nothing to do with the Disney deal.

Phyllis McGrady, a senior vice president of ABC News, said she is not against helping an interview subject connect with Disney's entertainment divisions if such a request is made. "If you were looking for a book deal," she said. "We have a publishing arm, Hyperion. I'll give you the name of the person there. But I could never, ever speak for Hyperion."

Likewise Bill Wheatley, vice president of NBC News, said his division avoids the sorts of proposals that CBS News put together for the Lynch interview.

"NBC News would certainly not be in the position of advancing projects by other divisions of the company," he said. "We don't want there to be confusion on this overall policy: that we don't pay for interviews."

CBS News executives said there should be no such confusion.

"We make no secret of the fact that we're part of Viacom," Ms. West

said. "But the reputation of CBS News for fairness and independence is without question."

But Lawrence K. Grossman, a former president of NBC News who has criticized media consolidation, said, "If they didn't think it was a tie-in deal, why would they mention it in the first place?"



CBS News officials said that the Lynch proposal was unusual, born of the frenzy of offers bombarding the Lynches. But it was not the only time CBS News had raised other options within Viacom while trying to woo an interview subject.

"60 Minutes" did so in an e-mail message last month to a representative for Mr. Ralston.

After emphasizing that "60 Minutes" was the most-watched newsmagazine program, the letter went on to state: "We can put you in touch with CBS Entertainment should you be interested in pursuing a television movie; with Paramount Pictures should you want to explore any movie possibilities; and with Simon & Schuster should Aron be interested in writing a book about his experience. Those are all options for you to consider, and all things that we can help you with."

CBS News officials said that the letter flagged those entertainment possibilities in part because a lawyer and a spokesman for the family had inquired about them. The spokesman to whom the e-mail message was sent, Paul Poister — who was helping on a voluntary basis and is not representing the family now — would say only, "During the time when I was helping field media interview requests, part of that role that I voluntarily played was not soliciting or trying to set up any kind of book or movie arrangements."

The lawyer for the family, Ron Elberger, had no comment on the CBS News proposal, citing attorney-client privilege.

But in the Ralston case, as in the Lynch case, the consolidated proposal was not necessarily a helpful development.

"The struggle that we deal with in looking at some of these things is, news is news; news is not to be bought and sold," Larry Ralston, Aron Ralston's father, said in an interview. "But what's news and what's entertainment?"

A spokesman for the West Virginia Department of Military Affairs, Ron Coleman, said, "The Lynches have absolutely not concerned themselves with specifics of the offers. They just want to see their daughter getting better."

Still, the Lynches are expected to sign with an agent soon.

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# Vice President: Army 'hard at work' to transform in a new era

by Sgt. 1st Class Doug Sample, American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, June 13, 2003 — "The most important ingredient for the Army's success will be the soldiers who take the risk and make the sacrifices and who win our wars," Vice President Dick Cheney, told a Pentagon audience today during a ceremony to salute the Army's 228th birthday.

The service's birthday is June 14, also Flag Day.

The vice president also reminded the audience that the fundamental interest of the United States is to confront and defeat aggressive threats whenever they arise. "We find our greatest security in the advance of human freedom," he added.

That security and freedom have come from the sacrifices of soldiers, Cheney said. Among the ceremony's guests were three soldiers injured and captured during the Iraq and Afghanistan campaigns.

"Throughout its history the United States Army has served and defended the cause of freedom, and many brave Americans have laid down their lives so that liberty could triumph."

Cheney pointed out that America seeks "a world at peace." He added that the best way to the keep that peace is to make sure "our military power is second to none."

"That is why even as it faces a daunting array of challenges around the globe, the U.S. Army is also hard at work transforming itself to confront the threats of a new era," he said.

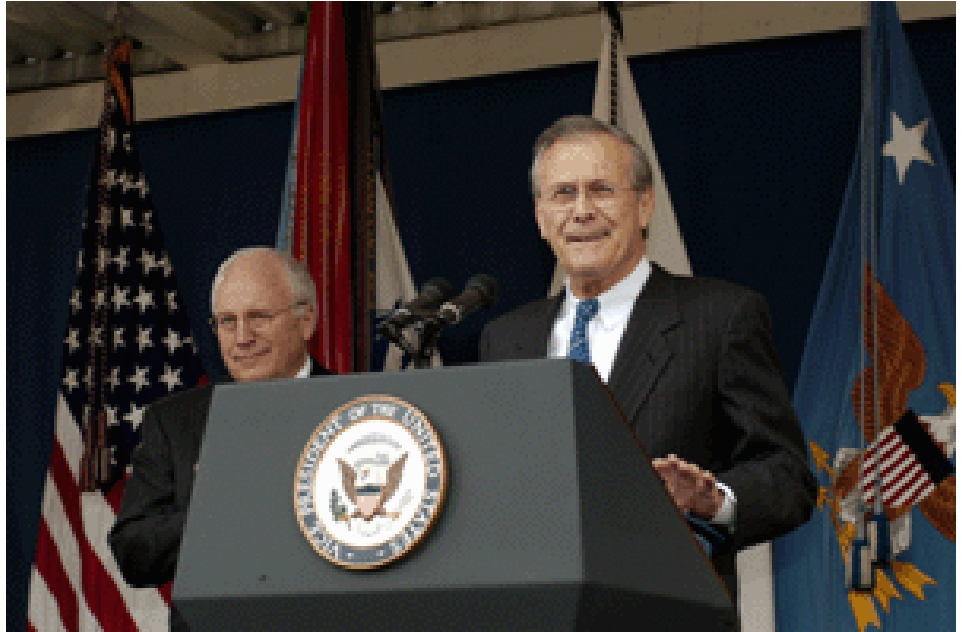
Cheney said he is "confident" the Army will be well prepared to meet all of tomorrow's security challenges. "It will be more agile, more flexible and more technologically advanced than it is today," he noted.

In brief remarks introducing the vice president, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld contrasted today's Army to the Continental Army of June 14, 1775.

"The Army has gone from liberating Boston to liberating Baghdad, from cavalry charges to tanks racing across deserts, from the snows of Valley Forge to the sandstorms of central Iraq, from patriots with single-shot muskets, to Patriot missiles downing enemy missiles," he said.

"We salute the doughboys, the GIs, the buck privates, and yes, the officers, the generals as well, soldiers of all ranks and roles."

Rumsfeld also took a moment to salute former Army chief of staff



*Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld (right) introduces Vice President Dick Cheney at a Pentagon ceremony marking the 228th Army birthday on June 13, 2003. DoD photo by Helene C. Stikkel.*

Army Gen. Eric Shinseki, who retired June 11. Rumsfeld said he "made a difference" by helping transform the Army into a 21st century fighting force. Army Gen. Jack Keane is serving as acting chief of staff until a new Army chief is confirmed.

In his comments, Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz cautioned that the war on terrorism is not over.

Despite the end of the war in Iraq, Wolfowitz said the fight against terrorism goes on, that soldiers are risking their lives "to capture and kill terrorists."

"The fight on terror is going to be a long fight, but have no doubt about it, we will win," he said.

Wolfowitz also said that the Army "10 years from now will be as astonishing to those of you serving today as you are to your predecessors. This Army is changing and moving forward. We are ahead of our enemies, we will beat our enemies, because we will keep getting better and better."

Wolfowitz observed that the head Army of U.S. Central Command, Gen. Tommy Franks, at the ceremony, was not the one who deserves the credit for the U.S. victory in Iraq.

"He (Franks) would scold me if I didn't say that he knows better than anyone that he didn't win this victory," Wolfowitz said as Franks nodded in agreement. "It was won by brave young men and women who risked their lives and their limbs on the ground, and who put the plan together and fought the fight and deserve the credit."

## Online registration and voting experiment to be launched

by Sgt. 1st Class Doug Sample, American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, June 16, 2003 — A DoD voting experiment in the 2000 presidential elections that allowed military and overseas voters to cast their ballots through the Internet will be expanded in 2004.

Beginning this fall, the Federal Voting Assistance Program hopes to get as many as 100,000 military personnel — stateside and overseas — their eligible dependents and U.S. citizens living outside the United States to take part in the Secure Electronic Registration and Voting Experiment, said Polli Brunelli, the program director. SERVE covers only those U.S. citizens who fall under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act.

Mandated by Congress, the project eligible voters from participating project states will be able to register and vote electronically via any Windows-based personal computer with Internet access from anywhere in world, Brunelli said.

In the 2000 experiment, 84 citizens located in 21 states and 11 countries voted in jurisdictions in South Carolina, Texas, Florida, and Utah, proving the theory that online voting could work for voters wherever they lived, Brunelli said.

“We conducted a small ‘proof of concept’ experiment for the 2000 presidential election, and it was very successful. Now we are conducting another electronic voting project. Congress wants it to be large enough to be statistically relevant. This will allow us to make supportable recommendations to the Congress on the future of Internet voting for UOCAVA citizens,” she said.

Brunelli noted that 10 states are interested in participating in the

## New Internet protocol version slated for debut

WASHINGTON, June 13, 2003 — An improved version of the Internet, featuring enhancements that improve system security and data delivery, will be part of DoD’s integrated information-communications network, a senior U.S. defense official said here today.

Users will realize improved service when Internet Protocol Version 6 is incorporated across DoD systems, John Stenbit, assistant secretary of defense for networks and information integration, remarked to reporters during a Pentagon press conference.

DoD currently uses Version 4 of the Internet, Stenbit explained. That system, he noted, has some flaws.

“There are lots of issues that have come up with Internet Version 4,” Stenbit pointed out, noting many commercial “fixes” have been made to address some of those problems.

One Version 4 fix, Stenbit said, concerns the number of Internet addresses that can be accessed. Yet, this issue, he pointed out, isn’t of particular import to DoD.

However, DoD is concerned about the lack of information security safeguards that are inherent in Internet Version 4, Stenbit noted.

2004 SERVE project: Arkansas, Florida, Hawaii, Minnesota, North Carolina, South Carolina, Utah, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Washington.

“We’re looking for volunteer voters to participate in the project,” she explained, “and we have a Web site where interested voters can see if their voting jurisdiction is participating in the project. Beginning later this year, the voter can sign up, then register and be able to vote in the 2004 elections.”

According to Brunelli, local and state election officials will use the SERVE system to receive voter registration applications, provide ballots to voters and accept voted ballots.

Brunelli said security during the registration and ballot process is a primary concern. SERVE will utilize digital signatures for registration and ballot encryption as part of the security features.

“People are concerned about Internet security. We’ve looked at the threats that could happen to this type of system, and we’ve developed mitigating measures to guard against those threats,” she said.

Brunelli said that not every county in states participating in the experiment will be part of SERVE. She said voters can find a list of participating jurisdictions at the SERVE Web site. However, she added that those counties that do participate will include the “full ballot” for that election — local, state and federal.

The experiment’s official Web site can be found at [www.serveusa.gov](http://www.serveusa.gov). For more information on SERVE or the Federal Voting Assistance Program, go to [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov).

And the department is aware of the current Internet system’s lack of dependability in delivering electronic “packages” of information, which, Stenbit points out, has a negative impact on quality of service.

Today, “if you send a ‘packet’ on the Internet, nobody is guaranteeing you that it is going to get to the other end,” Stenbit observed.

For example, he noted, sometimes Internet provider-generated video or audio conferences may lose sight or sound during transmission. This, he explained, is caused by Version 4 limitations.

Improvements addressing such quality of service issues are part of Internet Version 6, Stenbit explained.

And Version 6 development “has gotten far enough along so that people now deliver hardware and software that are compatible with both standards,” Stenbit noted.

Version 6 “is what we’re going to be using” as the standard for DoD, Stenbit declared, noting, “We’re anticipating moving the department to the use of IP 6 in about 2008.”

Consequently, DoD acquisition officials must begin purchasing Version 6- compatible equipment now, Stenbit concluded.